

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 14, 16-21, 24-26 and 28-36 are now present in the application. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 29-36 have been added. Claims 9-13, 15, 22, 23 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 14 and 28 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons For Entry Of Amendments

As the Examiner will note, claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15. In addition, new dependent claims 29-36, which include the same recitations as the previously presented claims 17-21 and 24-26, depend from allowed independent claim 28. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments do not raise new issue. Entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments are earnestly solicited .

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 27 and 28 are allowed and dependent claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 15, as described hereinbelow.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuo, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/003638. Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moden, U.S. Patent No. 6,297,548. Claims 9-12, 14, 17-20 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Glen, U.S. Patent No. 6,577,013. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moden. Claims 12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moden in view of Matsuo. Claims 13 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glen in view of Moden. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 15, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 14 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 29-36 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 29-36 are allowable due to their respective dependence on allowed independent claim 28, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 29-36 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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